1930 Ninth Avenue Helena. MT 59601

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It's midsummer, which means it's time to think about preparing for the upcoming school year. If you have a child entering kindergarten or seventh grade, proof of certain immunizations is required. Additional shots are recommended for optimal health protection.

## Kindergarten

- Required: Booster doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), polio, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Recommended: Chicken pox and hepatitis A

## **Seventh Grade**

• Required: A second dose of MMR and a tetanus booster (which also protects against diphtheria and pertussis)

## **Pre-Teens and Teens**

As kids get older they can develop risks for other diseases. Health professionals recommend that preteens and teenagers be vaccinated against:

- Meningitis;
- Chicken pox;
- Human papillomavirus; and
- Hepatitis A and B

College freshmen or transfer students should check with their school to determine if any shots are required before they can attend school.

## Walk-in Immunization Clinics

The health department holds walk-in immunization clinics Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1930 Ninth Ave. No appointment is needed, but bring a copy of any immunizations received elsewhere to speed the process. The department is able to bill all insurance providers, but please call your insurance carrier and see what they vaccines cover and where. If your child is not insured, there is a program to help make the vaccines affordable.

To learn more about immunizations, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm or contact the health department at 443-2584.